National Human Genome Research Institute
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services
and
Office of Science
U.S. Department of Energy

NHGRI Researchers Go Back to School for National DNA Day

BETHESDA, Md., April 22, 2003 – On April 25, dozens of researchers from the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) will head back to schools in their hometowns – from Newtonville, Mass. to Newport Beach, Calif. – and speak to students about the genome revolution and genetic research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The presentations are timed to coincide with National DNA Day, a day set aside by Congress to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the publication of the landmark paper by Drs. James Watson and Francis Crick, which described the double helix structure of DNA and to also offer educational opportunities to teachers and students. To do this, NHGRI has developed educational tools on genetics and genomics that are freely available to teachers and students to help them make the most of National DNA Day. These educational tools are available at www.genome.gov/Education.

Alan Guttmacher, M.D., NHGRI's deputy director, and Raynard S. Kington, M.D., Ph.D., deputy director of NIH, will go to their hometown of Baltimore, Md. to talk to students at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute where Dr. Kington attended high school.

In another historic moment earlier this month, NHGRI, the Department of Energy (DOE) and their international partners announced the successful completion of the Human Genome Project, the effort to sequence the 3 billion DNA letters in the human genetic instruction book. Many of the genetic pioneers from the past 50 years spoke at the events to celebrate the occasion. Information about these events can be viewed on the Web at www.genome.gov/About/April2003.

"The completion of the Human Genome Project is a monumental achievement, but it's only the beginning." said NHGRI Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. "We are depending on the next generation of scientists to translate the human genome sequence and use it to prevent, treat and eventually cure the common diseases that afflict families around the globe. National DNA Day is a wonderful opportunity for NHGRI researchers to make personal contact with students and get them excited about the 'era of the genome'."

The astronomer Carl Sagan once said, “Everybody starts out as a scientist. Every child has the scientist’s sense of wonder and awe.” By making a presentation on National DNA day, NHGRI researchers hope to encourage this sense of wonder and awe and act as a catalyst for students pursuing careers in science.

NHGRI is one of the 27 institutes and centers at the National Institutes of Health, an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Additional information about NHGRI can be found at its Web site, www.genome.gov.

To arrange an interview with a scientist visiting your area, please contact Geoff Spencer, (301) 402-0911.

NHGRI researcher	High School	City	State
Antonellis, Tony	Newton North HS	Newtonville	MA
	Welesley HS	Wellesley	MA
Anzick, Sarah	Park Senior HS	Livingston	MT
Bailey-Wilson, Joan	Hereford HS	Parkton	MD
Biesecker, Barbara	North Bethesda Middle Sch.	Bethesda	MD
Blake, Trevor	Plymouth High School	Plymouth	NC
Bouffard, Gerard	Rice Memorial HS	S. Burlington	VT
	Colchester HS	Colchester	VT
Bovee, Alissa	Waterloo HS	Waterloo	NY
Burgess, Shawn	Concord HS	Concord	NH
	St. Paul's School	Concord	NH
Chines, Peter	Windsor High School	Windsor	CT
Claassen, David	Beatrice HS	Beatrice	NB
Crabtree, Judy	Newkirk HS	Newkirk	OK
	Blackwell HS	Blackwell	OK
Crawford, Gregory	Stevenson HS	Lincolnshire	IL
	Deerfield HS	Deerfield	IL
Cudoc, Marie	Bonnie Branch MS	Ellicott City	MD
Dong, Danielle	Broughton HS	Raleigh	NC
Duggal Priya	Cranbrook Kingswood	Bloomfield Hills	MI
Egloff, Anne Marie	Swartz Creek Hs	Swartz Creek	MI
English, Milton	Samuel J. Tilden HS	Brooklyn	NY
Erdos, Mike	Antilles School	St. Thomas	US Virls
Gasser, Tricia	Worthington HS	Worthington	OH
Giannetti, Margot	Trinity HS	Chicago	IL
Gillanders, Elizabeth	Saint Mary's Springs High School	Fond du lac,	WI
Gollust, Sarah	Walt Whitman HS	Bethesda	MD
Hardison, Amada	Pamlico County HS	Bayboro	NC
Hurle, Belen	Vashon HS	St. Louis	MO
Idol, Jackie	Pulaski Cnty.Governor's HS	Dublin	VA
Klein, Alison	Needham HS	Needham	MA
Lalor, Molly	Paideia School	Atlanta	GA
Lamarca, Mary E.	Natick HS	Natick	MA
Lucas, Melinda L.	Lowndes High School	Valdosta	GA
McInerney-Leo	Northwest HS	Germantown	MD
Mendoza, Martin	Eleanor Roosevelt	Greenbelt	MD
Novotny, Elizabeth	Crossland High School	Temple Hills	MD

Paguirigan, Carmen	S.H.Rider HS	Wichita Falls	TX
Peck, Erin	Mt. Lebanon HS	Pittsburg	PA
Ponciano, Davaris	Bell HS	Bell	CA
Portnoy, Matthew	William Tennent High School	Warminster	PA
Prasad, Arjun	Newport Harbor HS	Newport Beach	CA
Prentice, Reid	Natrona County HS	Casper	WY
Robbins, Christiane	Kahuku HS	Kahuku	HI
	University of Hawaii	Hane'ohe	HI
Sapp, Julie	Gulliver Preparatory Campus	Miami	FL
Scacheri, Peter	Sachem HS	Lake Ronkonkoma	NY
Schueler, Mary G.	Bethesda Chevy Chase HS	Bethesda	MD
	Academy of the Holy Cross	Kensington	MD
Sinesky, Shawn	The Peddie School	Hightstown	NJ
Smith, Sarah	Granville HS	Granville	NY
Stoos, Karen	Hoven HS	Hoven	SD
Tam, Karen	Roland Park Country School	Baltimore	MD
Waggoner, Brooke	Springfield HS	Springfield	IL
Weeraratna, Ashani	Dunbar HS	Baltimore	MD
Wetterstrand, Kris	Jupiter HS	Jupiter	FL
	Suncoast Community HS	Riviera Beach	FL

Educational resources and events for National DNA Day can be found at www.genome.gov/About/April2003/DNADay including,

- ***DNA – The Next Generation***
  An Educational Videocast
  Nobel laureate James Watson and NHGRI Director Francis Collins discuss with high school students the past, present and future of DNA. A webcast of the event will be available starting on April 25. The 30-minute program also will be fed via satellite at two different times on April 25: 9:00 a.m.Eastern and 1:00 p.m. Eastern..

- **Genetics Education Modules**
  A series of educationmodules, including specific teaching plans, that present the history, facts and genetic terminology behind the Human Genome Project, as well as the ethical, legal and social questions surrounding this research.

- ***Exploring Our Molecular Selves***
  An online, multimedia education kit on the Human Genome Project.

- **Genetics Mentorship Program**
  A new, nationwide program created to provide genetics experts for the classroom.

- **Human Genetic Variation**
  An online curriculum supplement on the basics of human genetics.

- **Joint Genome Institute from the Department of Energy**
  This full-color educational poster, entitled "Genomics: The Human Genome and Beyond," is available free to teachers and genomics professionals. The placemat-sized poster features

basic information on DNA, protein synthesis, the genome sequencing process, comparative genomics, human differences and mutations, and genomics applications

Visit: www.jgi.doe.gov.

For more information about National DNA Day and all of the April 2003 events, visit NHGRI's Web site at: www.genome.gov

For satellite downlink information, go to:
www.genome.gov/About/April2003/Satellite.

For webcast information, go to: www.genome.gov/About/April2003/Webcast

Contact:
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